

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 INT-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 086267

P 021510 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 877

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 5088

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: MAY DAY OVER; ARE NEW TALKS AHEAD?

REF: LONDON 2641

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH TRADE UNIONS' DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT PAY AND PRICE POLICIES BROUGHT WIDESPREAD PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE AND CUSCUTS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, THE DAY' S EVENTS IN NO WAY RESEMBLED OR CAME NEAR TO BEING A GENERAL STRIKE. WITH MAY DAY OVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT TALKS WILL SOON BEGIN BETWEEN THE TUC AND THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITIONAL TO PHASE THREE PAY AND PRICE ISSUES, IT IS THOUGHT THAT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT WILL FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THESE DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BRITISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT' S MAY 1 DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT' S PAY AND PRICES POLICY CAUSED WIDESPREAD PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE AND WAS COSTLY IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION LOSS IN SOME INDUSTRIES BUT THE COUNTRY WAS FAR FROM COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN AND THE DAY' S EVENTS DID NOT COME NEAR THE DIMENSIONS OF A GENERAL

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STRIKE. AN ESTIMATED 1,600,000 WORKERS WERE OFF THEIR  
JOBS, PARALYZING THE RAILWAYS AND LARGEST PORTS,  
PREVENTING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION, SEVERELY  
AFFECTING THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY THE  
MIDLANDS AUTO- MAKERS, AND CUTTING COAL PRODUCTION IN  
WALES AND SCOTLAND. IN ADDITION THERE WERE TRIPS TO CHICAGO AND  
WASHINGTON  
WOULD BE NECESSARY.  
SHERER

UNCLASSIFIED  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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